

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph [0079] with the following rewritten version:

[0079] In the illustrated embodiment, the ratchet member 54, the locking member or retaining pawl 84 and the resilient coating 55 (buffering member) form parts of a positioning mechanism of the front shift operating device 20. In other words, as seen in Figures 8, 9 and 10, positioning mechanism of the front shift operating device 20 includes the ratchet member 54 and the retaining pawl 84 that cooperate to selective hold the position of the winding member 52 (shown in Figures 4 and 6) in one of three positions. As seen in Figures 7, 14, 15 and 16, the second operating member 62 is an operator actuating member that is configured and arranged to be manually operated by the rider to move the retaining pawl 84 which in turn controls the movement of ratchet member 54. Thus, the positioning mechanism (e.g., the ratchet member 54 and the retaining pawl 84) are mechanically coupled to the operator actuating member (e.g., the second operating member 62). Thus, one of the ratchet member 54 and the locking member 84 can be considered a first member of the positioning mechanism and the other of the ratchet member 54 and the locking member 84 can be considered a second member of the positioning mechanism. Moreover, the positioning surface 54c of the ratchet member 54 and the peripheral surface of the locking member 84 can be considered engagement surfaces contacting the resilient coating 55. The ratchet member 54 and the locking member 84 are arranged and configured to engage each other in response to manual operation each of the first and second operating members 60 and 62. Of course, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art from this disclosure that the positioning mechanism of the present invention could include additional and/or different parts as needed and or desired. The resilient coating 55 acts as a cushion between the ratchet member 54 and the locking member 84 to prevent direct contact between these members.